

“Ask 1 A Month”

Fellow Lions! I hope this finds each and every one of you doing well. July has flown by! Lion Monica and I are back from the International Convention in Toronto, the Youth Exchange has passed thru and we have started club visits. If your club has not scheduled a visit with me or someone from the DG team, please contact District Secretary/ Treasurer PCC Joe Lark.

We met with the Youth Exchange over the weekend. This is an exciting, but unfortunately, an often and overlooked program and service we as Lions offer. And I am speaking from experience. I was fortunate to participate in an exchange program with AFS right after high school. I spent several weeks living with a family in Turkey. This experience opened my eyes to a different culture, a different world perspective and fueled my desires to travel. Meeting new people, having incredible experiences, and the realization of just how fortunate we live were we do. Do you realize that the Lions Youth Exchange is in over 40 countries? The experiences these kids will have on their trip to South Carolina will leave them with lifelong friends and memories. I think this is something we can all be proud of.

International President Joe Preston has an “Ask 1” campaign going this year. Good stuff, but I would like to carry that one step forward in 32A this year. Let’s do “Ask 1 a Month”. I am not saying that each of you will sponsor 12 new members this year. But just ask. You are going to a meal and fellowship right? Is there no one you can’t bring? In one of my club visits the tail twister asked the club if anyone knew the name of the server. No one did. I asked if anyone had seen someone today who was not a Lion. All hands up. I asked if they had invited any of those to the meal. All hands down. Mine included. I will try to find someone who is not a Lion to bring to each of my visits. If you are meeting in a banquet room in a restaurant, ask some of the other patrons to join you for dinner. Easy stuff. And each new member we bring in means two more hands to help serve those in need in our local communities.

I also want to tell you about something the Taylors Club is doing that I think can spread to the whole district. They have partnered with a floral wholesaler to take all the flowers they would normally throw out. I have never seen so many flowers in one place! They cut the stems and make arrangements in vases to take to nursing homes, hospitals, etc. The vases cost a dollar and can be reused. They offered me some flowers to take to the residents in the nursing home



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where my Grandmother lives. What a blessing! And by blessing I mean the look on the faces of the residents when you walk in with boxes of colorful flowers and give light to their day. Talk about bringing joy to an otherwise dreary day! That is fuel for the fire!

This month's challenge, and since there were no winners last month, I am doubling down. Let me know how many Youth Exchange camps there are in how many countries. Email me (gary@carolinatrailers.com). I still want to know when you joined Lions, why you are still a Lion, and when you became a Lion.

A couple of housekeeping notes before I go:

- I want to encourage clubs that have not participated in the Club Excellence Process/Award to please consider doing so.
- District Information is being updated weekly on our website. Check frequently.
- If you have a club activity you would like me to include, please let me know. Also, please pass along any pictures of events your club does this year. I would like to share them at our convention in January.
- Ask someone to join your club this month.

Again, I appreciate all you do for Lions in the service of your community.

Yours in Service and Lionism,

Gary